

23 June 1981

Honorable Melvin Price
Chairman
Committee on Armed Services
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Put file with
Paperwork Reduction Act
Brooks Act
inflection

I have reviewed the report of the House Government Operations Committee on H.R. 3519 (DoD authorization for FY 1982) with respect to a proposed amendment to Title 10 U.S. Code which states that: "... procurement of any automatic data processing equipment or services by or for use of the Department of Defense shall be conducted in accordance with (the Brooks Act)."

I am greatly concerned that the adoption of this sweeping and all-inclusive language could be construed as extending the coverage of the Brooks Act within the Department of Defense into areas which are not now covered. This would be directly contrary to the recently expressed intent of Congress in adopting agreed upon language in the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1980 (Public Law 96-511) which provided: "Nothing in this chapter shall be interpreted as increasing or decreasing the authority conferred by Public Law 89-306 (the Brooks Act) on the Administrator of the General Services Administration, the Secretary of Commerce, or the Director of the Office of Management and Budget."

If the effect of the amendment were not to extend the coverage of the Brooks Act, then it is mere surplusage and should be resisted on that ground.

As you are aware, present procurement policies as applied to the DoD and those components of the Intelligence Community within it (with the exception of NSA) have resulted in an inventory of ADP equipment which is obsolescent. Critical functions of intelligence and command and control are being implemented with technology which has not kept up with the state-of-the-art in computer science.

Secretaries Weinberger and Carlucci are undertaking new initiatives to streamline Defense procurement practices, including those related to ADP. As part of this initiative they are seeking a blanket delegation of ADP procurement authority from GSA under the Brooks Act, similar to that now enjoyed by both CIA and NSA. In my opinion, the passage of the amendment to Title 10 now being proposed by the Government Operations Committee may well prevent this delegation of authority from taking place, thereby severely limiting the laudable efforts of the new administration to improve the quality of ADP support being provided for critical intelligence missions.

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Indeed, the adoption by the House of the amendment to the Brooks Act, which was included in the Senate Authorization Bill (S. 815), would give positive support to our efforts to improve our defense posture and insure that all elements of the Intelligence Community receive the quality of ADP support which they need to continue to provide this country with the best possible intelligence.

Your opposition to the proposed Government Operations Committee amendment will greatly assist the Intelligence Community in taking full advantage of one extremely important area of technology in which we, as a nation, enjoy a substantial advantage over the Communist world.

Sincerely,



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B. R. INMAN
Admiral, U.S. Navy

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| TRANSMITTAL SLIP | | DATE |
| TO: <i>DOA VIA ADDA</i> | | <i>19 JAN 1982</i> |
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| REMARKS: | | |
| <i>ADDA</i> <i>H</i> <i>19 JAN 1982</i> <i>DOA</i> <i>D</i> <i>19 JAN 1982</i> <i>ED/DOA has separate copy.</i> | | |
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(47)